Architectural Medals!

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This month's initial selection of medals is composed entirely of architectural types, many of which emanate from the famous series of Jacob (Jacques) Wiener and, *in some cases*, his brothers. These medals—*always a favorite on account of their in-depth artistry and majestic perspective*—have experienced somewhat of a surge in interest over the past few years, reaching and fascinating even more of the collecting world. Starting things off is one of the more entrancing types, the Mosque-*turned*-Cathedral of Córdoba…

A bit of a departure from the normal layout in the series, this type features an interior view upon each side rather than the typical exterior/interior view configuration of many others. Given the manner in which the arches grab one's attention, it is easy to see why two such interior views were chosen. Incredible depth is created, with expert precision given to the perspective as well.

Moving on to another piece, the Westminster Abbey medal is, in my opinion, one of the most ambitious pieces, with its reverse design simply being a wondrous tour-de-force of beauty and intricacy. Here, it is presented in silvered bronze—a format that, though seemingly not original as ordered by the publishers of the series, was done on a subset of them likely by an enterprising individual looking to fill a void left by the much more expensive solid silver versions…

Yet another iconic type is that of the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris—the same structure that suffered fire damage in the spring of 2019, all while the public watched in agony over the fate of the edifice…

Despite the shock over the damage done by the fire, immolations have always been an enemy of many churches, as fires were one of the more common modes of their demise over the centuries. Many restorations or complete rebuilds of churches have been needed through the havoc wreaked by flames.

Lastly, a bit of a departure from the Wieners' series is this contemporaneous issue from the Papal States. Celebrating the restoration of the papal altar at Santi Giovanni Battista ed Evangelista in Laterano, it presents a near-indescribable level of detail and refinement of the basilica's interior—an aspect that is greatly aided by the immense size of the medal itself, measuring 82mm in diameter...

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For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art at the top of the page, and stay tuned for another group of art and historical medals in the middle of this month, as well as another installment of architecture-themed medals at the beginning of March!

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